

- 3.13. Assessments of the external wall should also include assessment of the potential impact of any attachments to the external wall. Particular attention should be paid to any risk of fire spread from balconies and other attachments containing combustible materials. Further advice on this is included in section 7 below.
- 3.14. Some products in existing residential buildings are likely to have achieved Class B-s3,d2 or Class 0. These classifications are not on their own evidence that a system is safe. The combustibility of the material beyond the direct surface of the product may contribute to fire spread of the external walls of buildings and therefore should be included in the assessment as a whole (such as the core materials of metal composite panels or sandwich panels). It may be appropriate, subject to expert advice and supported by test evidence, to retain cladding panels achieving class B-s3,d2 if any filler material within the products and any insulation material achieves Class A2-s3,d2 or better.
- 3.15. Where it has been determined that the external wall system does not meet an appropriate standard of safety, building owners should inform their local Fire and Rescue Service and put in place appropriate short-term interim measures as set out in section 11 on Interim Measures below. For the avoidance of doubt, the removal of unsafe material and action to remediate unsafe wall systems should be carried out as soon as possible.

Gathering information on test evidence

- 3.16. External wall systems on existing buildings may incorporate insulation products, filler material, etc. which do not meet Class A2-s3,d2 or better (previously referred to as limited combustibility) but which has been subjected to a successful BR135 classification following a BS 8414 test. External wall systems rely upon correct design detailing and construction of cavity barriers, fire stopping and in some cases external renders to inhibit fire spread. Building owners should seek professional advice on whether the external wall has been installed correctly, and as per the BS 8414 test, and maintained as recommended by the manufacturer/supplier.
- 3.17. BS 8414 tests that have led to a BR135 certification should be available from manufacturers and can sometimes be accessed via their websites. The Building Research Establishment (BRE) has published a list of BS 8414 tests it has conducted that have achieved BR135 certificates and this can be found here - www.bre.co.uk/regulatory-testing.

